

# THE RAMBLER

THE SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE BODIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2013 Number 3

Double Issue

July - December 2013

[SWOPEPARK.ORG](http://SWOPEPARK.ORG)

## Master's Trestle Board

On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> Swope Park Lodge #617 had a fantastic Installation of Officers. This was the Lodge's 103<sup>rd</sup> installation. All of the nights spent contemplating plans, guest list, making list after list finally paid off. One of the things I appreciate about our Lodge is the Masonic Family culture. We had representation from each of our appendant bodies. Our Job's Daughter's did a beautiful job with the Bible Presentation and the young men from our DeMolay group presented our flag. We also had quite a number from our Eastern Star Chapter. I believe our Secretary counted 71 people in attendance. What wonderful support for our new officers from our fellow Brethren and appendant groups. And as an unexpected treat, Connie Best was ceremoniously crowned Mrs. Swope Park, by her husband RWB Kenny Best with the assistance of RWB Gary Dryer and myself.

This year looks to be a busy one. After many 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees being completed in August (2 of 3 were courtesy degree work for Temple Gate Lodge #299), we had a chance to catch our breath before attending the Grand Lodge Session September 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Columbia.

This was my first exposure to the Grand Lodge Session and it was a little overwhelming at times, but we managed to make it through. Two of our own officers were also installed as Officers of the Grand Lodge: RWB Kenny Best (District Deputy Grand Master) and RWB Gary Dryer (Grand Chaplain). We wish you both nothing but the best with these new assignments.

Our asphalt parking lot plans finally came to fruition, with the asphalt replacement/overlay being completed just prior to the installation of officers. A special thank you to our young men from DeMolay for the donation of materials and labor to complete the parking lot striping and handicap marking. Contributions from the other appendant bodies also helped our Building Board complete this project. We will, however, need to continue to have a work day from time to time in order to clean, maintain, and improve our Lodge. We will strive to let everyone know when these days take place. We need everyone's help to keep our Lodge a great place to meet.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of presenting Brother Cloyd Green with

his 50 year pin and certificate. One of his students that he mentored was WB Jack Clark, who was also in attendance for this special occasion. What a fantastic Masonic Milestone achievement for this distinguished Brother.

We currently have about a dozen petitions out for men to become members of our Lodge. As we all know a good number of the petitions that are given out do not come back, but some do. We will continue to ask men to become members of this Lodge, and I have no doubt that we will be busy with degree work as we go into 2014.

This past year we lost a number of members who have left this temporal place to go to the Celestial Lodge above. RWB Paul F. Miller passed away this past spring. Paul was our Senior Warden and mentor as well as serving as District Deputy Grand Lecturer for the 18<sup>th</sup> Masonic District. For each one of us that have been taught ritual by Paul, we should remember him as we continue to perfect our craft as he would have us do. Our Wednesday evening study club was renamed in Paul's honor. The RWB Paul F. Miller Memorial Study Club continues to meet at Swope



Jeffrey L. Engle  
Worshipful Master 2013-2014

Park Lodge every Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM.

As I close this note, I wish to thank the members of this Lodge who elected me as Worshipful Master. I will do my very best to continue to make Swope Park Lodge #617 the great Lodge that it is.

May the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth continue to bless each of you and your family.

Fraternally,

Jeffrey L. Engle

Worshipful Master



## Swope Park Lodge #617 Installation Highlights



The 2013-2014 Installation of Officers for Swope Park Lodge took place on October 5, 2013.



<p>First Row: Senior Warden - B James O'Shea, Worshipful Master - Jeff Engle, Junior Warden - WB Jim Lowman, Marshal - B Jody Hale</p>	<p>2nd Row: Chaplain - B Clayton Stiff, Treasurer - RWB Gary Dryer, Tiler - WB Ed Culver, Senior Steward - B Mark Schmidt</p>	<p>3rd Row: Junior Deacon - B Kevin Sykes, Senior Steward - B Larry Alvis, Secretary - RWB Kenny Best, Junior Steward - B Thomas Schmidt</p>
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Left: WM Jeff Engle honored all adults who assisted Swope Park Lodge's youth groups, his main message was that the youth are our future.

Right: William F. Kuhn DeMolay performed a Flag Tribute and Job's Daughters Bethel #1 performed a Bible Ceremony



## Swope Park #520 OES News

Welcome to our three new initiates: Mrs. Joy Howard, Ms. April White and Mr. Larry Alvis.

We look forward to their active participation in the chapter. We are pleased to have two new petitions and hope to initiate them in February. We were saddened at the passing of Sister Betty Fletcher, PM, Sister Delores Coffer, PM, Sister Dorothea Eib-Irwin and Brother Preston Pemberton, PP. Our sympathy to Sister Joyce Elkins and former member Neva Leo on the passing of their spouses. Congratulations to Meghan Culver on her marriage to Ian Hook.

Congratulations to Brother Richard Houston who achieved his 60 year pin as a lodge member. We served a dinner following the presentation.

Election of officers has taken place and resulted in the following being elected for 2013-2014. Worthy Matron – Deb Merrick; Worthy Patron – R. Ed Culver; Associate Matron – Lois Compton; Associate Patron – Larry Alvis; Secretary – Lois Patten; Treasurer – Richard Houston; Conductress – Jane Wither and Associate Conductress – Barbara Stillman. The installation was held Saturday November 16th at 2 p.m.

Grand Chapter was held October 13th through 16th in Columbia. The main order of business was a proposal to increase the per capita paid by each member. This proposal failed but will

come before us again next year. Also, there were many changes to the "Blue Book" which came down from General Grand Chapter. If you would like a copy of the changes please let the Secretary know.

On October 8th we celebrated the 89th birthday of Swope Park Chapter. We all enjoyed the carry-in dinner. Past Matrons and Past Patrons were honored at this meeting.

Marge Carney, Worthy Grand Matron held a ritual workshop October 19th which was well attended. A half-hour before each District Inspection she will hold an open forum time for members to ask questions.

Sister Rita Hanson asked us to bring school supplies all year long. This resulted in three big tubs of school supplies. These were distributed to three elementary schools in the Kansas City area. Sister Rita tried several new things this year; we appreciate her stepping out to make us aware that we follow the ritual, but we can also do some things differently.

Our thanks to the Building Board for sponsoring the Christmas Party. Several of our members attended and had a great time. We appreciate all the hard work Connie Best did to make this a huge success. Prior to the Christmas party, Swope Park Lodge took gifts to the Veterans Hospital. We were glad to have the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile event.

Our thanks to the Swope Park Temple Board for having the parking lot refinished before winter and for adding handicap spots. We appreciate the DeMolay for doing the striping of the parking lot. Great work!!!

We regret that our 2013 Worthy Patron, Ken Best, is undergoing some heart problems. Prior to our December meeting, Brother Ken and Sister Rita Hanson were honored for all the work they did this past year as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

The past two years some of the state wide membership has provided a luncheon to the DeMolay at their state Conclave. The chapters have been asked to help raise money for this and for a similar event for the Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters. We took up a collection at the December meeting and added to it from our charity funds. We need to support our youth if we are going to grow our membership. We are being reminded that our young people need our presence as well as our funds. We are fortunate to have several of our members active as leaders in Job's Daughters Bethel #1 and Wm. F Kuhn DeMolay. Both meet at Swope Park Temple.

Sister Deb is also planning to have several collections for items at various meetings. Included in the plans are paper products for Rainbow Center and food for a local food bank. She may

surprise us with some additional collections.

We had a cookie exchange at our December meeting. It is always fun to taste what other people make. Extra cookies were taken to the fire station. These dedicated individuals are very helpful to surrounding residents as well as fighting fires.

Each month the Secretary makes a handout of correspondence, important dates and other information. This saves time at the meetings and gives the membership something to refer to. If you would like to be added or removed from the e-mail list for this please let her know. Also, if you want, a copy can be mailed to you. Her e-mail address is Lois520@comcast.net. Phone is 816-318-9808. And, membership dues are due and payable at this time. Dues are \$13 this year, 50 year members pay only the \$4.40 per capita. Donations to the Chapter and the Grand Chapter charities are always appreciated.

Coming Events at Swope Park #520: Jan 14th stated meeting; Jan 26th practice for the Official visit of the DDGM; Feb 11th stated meeting, the Official Visit of the DDGM and initiation of the two new candidates. Feb 15th District Official Inspection by the Worthy Grand Matron. The more we participate the more we can appreciate our beautiful order.

## Parking Lot Resurfacing and Lodge Improvements

The Swope Park Building Board held it's meeting on Sunday, September 15th. Several items were discussed concerning improvements to the building and property.

We voted and approved the asphalt project for our parking lot. The proposal

was signed and confirmed with our subcontractor. The work began September 30th and was completed Tuesday, October 1st.

The William F. Kuhn Chapter of DeMolay graciously contributed to this project by performing the

stripping for the vehicles.

The Order of Eastern Star contributed generously towards the cost of this project.

Kevin Sykes has solicited pricing for fill dirt that is needed to put around the building to help improve

drainage away from the building. The actual work day to complete this and other maintenance items will be discussed at a later date.

Thank you for you contributions in making Swope Park Masonic Family (and Building) stronger.

## 50 and 60 Year Pin Presentations

Swope Park Lodge #617 was proud to present a 50 and 60 year pin to two worthy brethren in October and November.

Prior to the regular communication on October

10, 2013 WM Jeff Engle presented Brother Cloyd Green with his 50 year pin.

On Thursday, November 14th WB Jeff Engle presented WB Richard Hous-

ton with the 60 year service pin at an open lodge attended by members of Swope Park Lodge, OES, DeMolay and Houston's family members.

After the presentation to

WB Houston, the evening concluded with a fabulous dinner prepared by our ladies of the Eastern Star.



**Top Left:** B Cloyd Green receives his 50 year pin from WB Jeff Engle and RWB Kenny Best.  
**Bottom Left:** B Cloyd and WB Engle with his plaque.  
**Top Right:** WB Richard Houston receives his 60 year pin with wife Marilyn.  
**Bottom Right:** WB Richard thanks his family for attending.



**The Rambler** is the official quarterly newsletter published for Swope Park Masonic Temple Appendant bodies to communicate the activities of the organizations meeting there. Articles and photos are earnestly solicited. Please place your submission in The Rambler's box in the vestibule outside the lodge room, or email to WB Justin Dryer at [justind@modemolay.org](mailto:justind@modemolay.org). We reach over 400 households.

## Christmas Greetings from Worshipful Master Jeff Engle

Holiday greetings to all! I wanted to share with each of you a wonderful venue that I had an opportunity to be involved with this weekend.

Our WB Charlie Farris and his wife Cheryl work with The Quality Hill Playhouse, located at 303 W.

10th Street (just east of Broadway and 10th). The Playhouse continues to be a patron of our Masonic efforts and in return the members in our Lodge have in turn patronized The Playhouse with their attendance at the various shows which

run from the end of September until just after the July 4th weekend. They have presented us with a fundraising opportunity for our Masonic family, more of which will be shared in future Lodge meetings. Tickets are on sale via [www.qualityhillplayhouse.com](http://www.qualityhillplayhouse.com)

, by phone at (816) 421-1700, or stop by the ticket office. As a Masonic reminder, music is an elevated science. With all of the busyness of the season, grab a show and enjoy the season of music as a patron of the arts.

## Courtesy Work for Temple-Gate Lodge #299

In addition to the busy schedule of degree work of its own, Swope Park Lodge #617 has provided some brotherly assistance in the form of courtesy work for Temple-Gate Lodge #299 who requested our assistance.

Swope Park Lodge #617 assisted Temple-Gate Lodge #299 by doing courtesy work for Gregory Wisner, who was raised to the degree of Master Mason on Thursday, August 8th. RWB Larry Cameron obligated Greg-

ory, while WB Jeff Engle performed the lecture and charge.

The following meeting, Swope Park Lodge #617 assisted Temple-Gate Lodge #299 with raising Brody George Ridgeway, who was raised to the degree of Master Mason on Thursday, August 22nd. RWB Kenny Goad performed the charge with 36 Brothers in attendance including Brody's grandfather RWB Lyman Ridgeway. Also in attendance were members of

the East Gate Travelers Club whose attendance and assistance is always appreciated in Kansas City and beyond.

On Thursday, September 26th, Swope Park Lodge #617 assisted Temple-Gate with the raising of Tony Ray Stephens. WB Jeff Engle conferred the degree, gave the lecture and charge and Brother Stephens was raised by his lodge's own WM John L. Hoeykens.

On Wednesday Decem-

ber 11th, Swope Park Lodge #617 assisted in conferring a Fellowcraft Degree for Temple-Gate Lodge's B Kory Dillon Buys. Swope Park WM Jeff Engle conferred the degree, RWB Cecil Wagers gave the lecture, RWB Glenn Burrows the Charge and WB Justin Dryer gave the Letter "G". Members from Kory's lodge were in attendance for his support including his grandfather, Temple-gate's WM John L. Hoeykens.



Brother Brody Ridgeway pictured in center, surrounded from left to right by WB Josh Thompson, RWB Charles Farris who conferred the 3rd degree and WB Jeff Engle who performed the lecture.



Brother Kory Dillon Buys centered in the team of WM John L. Hoeykens, RWB Glenn Burrows, WB Justin Dryer, WB Cecil Wagers, and WB Jeff Engle.



Brother Tony Ray Stephens standing with WB Jeff Engle who performed the degree, lecture and charge as well as WB John L. Hoeykens from Temple-Gate Lodge #299.



Brother Gregory Wisner, with WB Jeff Engle on left, his grandfather WB Gene Wisner and RWB Larry Cameron on right. WB Gene raised B Wisner.

## Job's Daughters Bethel #1 Installation

Job's Daughters Bethel #1 hosted their Installation of Officers on Saturday, December 7th at Swope Park Lodge.

The girls were escorted by family members and Lodge Brethren prior to the ceremony. William F. Kuhn DeMolay performed the Arch of Steel for Vic-

toria (Tori) O'dell who was installed as Honored Queen. Tori is also William F. Kuhn's Chapter Sweetheart.

These are a great group of young ladies and in Swope Park tradition they too, are very serious about their ritual.

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## Sixth Annual VA Medical Center Visit



The sixth Christmas gift presentation at the Veterans Hospital in Kansas City was once again a huge success. The Swope Park Masonic family is the largest group that assists the patients.

In attendance were members of Swope Park Lodge, Eastern Star,

Royal Arch, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and visiting Rainbow Girls.

This event was started six years ago by three Masons and three DeMolay and has grown to over 40 people.

We assemble the bags on Friday night and deliver them on Saturday morning.



## Swope Park Masonic Family Christmas Party

A big thank you to Mrs. Swope Park (Connie Best) who coordinated the Lodge Christmas party this year. It started with a wonderful chili and soup supper sponsored by William F. Kuhn DeMolay. WB James Lowman was Master of Ceremonies for the very impressive talent

event. We thank all the Jobies and very talented Masons for sharing their individual talents. It was a very entertaining evening. RWB Larry Cameron did a great job on the auction and Connie Best had a successful silent auction as well with over \$1,100.00 raised for the building board.



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## SWOPE PARK TEMPLE MEETINGS DATE, TIME and CONTACTS

### ..# Swope Park Lodge #617 AF&AM

Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:30 PM  
Kenny Best, Secretary  
Phone (816) 965-5261

### ..# Swope Park Order Eastern Star Chapter 520

Second Tuesday 7:30 PM  
Lois Patton, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-9808

### ..# Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter 284

First Monday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939

### ..# Westport Council Royal & Select Masters Nr 38

First Monday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939

### ..# Commandery of Knights Templar Nr 68

Third Tuesday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939

### ..# Paul F Miller Memorial Study Club

Wednesdays 7:00 PM  
Joshua Thompson, Director

### ..# Job's Daughters Bethel # 1 and Jobie-2-Bees

Second and Fourth Mondays 7:30 PM  
Rita Hanson  
Phone (816) 525-2681

### ..# William F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay

First and Third Thursdays 7:30 PM  
Gary Dryer, Chapter Advisor  
Phone (816) 763-9494

### ..# Squires of the Round Table

First and Third Thursdays 7:00 PM  
Kevin Sykes, Adult Advisor  
Phone (816) 322-3485